

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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S E C R E T ATHENS 4214

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TK

SUBJ: TURKISH PROPOSAL FOR MACHINERY TO DISCUSS

OUTSTANDING GREEK-TURKISH ISSUES

REF ATHENS 4178

1. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BE INTRIGUED BY GOG HANDLING,
AT PRIMIN LEVEL, OF TURKISH PROPOSAL TO SET UP HIGH LEVEL
BILATERAL COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES,
WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO AEGEAN SEA ISSUES, AND MINOR-
ITIES (WHICH IN GOT EYES DO NOT INCLUDE CYPRIOT TURK
MINORITY).

2. IOANNIDES, AS REPORTED, HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN FAVOR
OF A PACKAGE DEAL. SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS
HAVE ALSO DONE SAME. GOT PROPOSALS CERTAINLY PROVIDE
FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH SUCH DISCUSSIONS COULD BE CARRIED
OUT, PARTCIULARLY IF, AS TURKISH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME LAST

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EVENING AT CANADIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, BOTH THE

STRUCTURE AND SUBJECTS OF THE TURKISH PROPOSAL ARE NEGOTIABLE SINCE GOT PAPER INTENDED TO BE INITIAL PROPOSAL. THUS TURKS THEMSELVES ALSO APPARENTLY PERPLEXED BY NEGATIVE GREEK REACTION.

3. ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER MAY BE THAT IOANNIDES AND THE MILITARY ARE LEAVING BASIC TACTICS UP TO PM ANDROUTSOPoulos, WHO HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT ALL BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE DEALT WITH THROUGH ROUTINE BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. SUCH AN APPROACH APPEARS TO INVOLVE LESS COMMITMENT TO OUTCOME, THUS KEEPING THE HEAT FROM FOCUSING ON ANDROUTSOPoulos WHO CERTAINLY HAS NOT DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY BOLD QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP.

4. ANOTHER ANCILLARY CONSIDERATION MAY BE THAT TURKISH PAPER IS SUBJECT TO INTERPRETATION THAT GREEK LEGAL RIGHTS REGARDING DISPUTED AREAS NOT AS CLEAR CUT AS GOG HAS ASSERTED SINCE AEGEAN ISSUES AROSE. IN SIMILAR VEIN APPARENTLY GREEKS ALSO VIEW INCLUSION OF MATTERS ON MINORITIES IN GOT PROPOSAL AS REOPENING OF THEIR TREATMENT IN LAUSANNE TREATY. FINALLY, PRESENT GOVERNMENT, AS IT HAS ALREADY DEMONSTRATED IN NUMEROUS OTHER CASES, FINDS IT QUITE DIFFICULT TO ARRIVE AT IMPORTANT DECISIONS. ITS DIFFICULTY IN THIS RESPECT CAN IN LARGE PART BE ATTRIBUTED TO LACK OF CENTRALIZED AUTHORITY. IT REFLECTS FACTS THAT MAJOR POLICY GUIDANCE IN ALL IMPORTANT MATTERS MUST COME PRIMARILY FROM THE MILITARY AND THAT CIVILIAN ELEMENTS UNDER ANDROUTSOPoulos ARE NOT ONLY LACKING IN ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY BUT ALSO TIMID AND/OR INEFFECTIVE. IN OTHER WORDS, BECAUSE OF DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN THE EFFECTIVE AND REAL POWER IN THE MILITARY STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY DELEGATED TO CIVILIAN MINISTERS GOG BY ITS VERY NATURE SIMPLY CANNOT WORK EFFECTIVELY.

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